

Message Text

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63

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-13 COME-00 EB-11 LAB-06 SIL-01

AGR-20 OMB-01 TRSE-00 DRC-01 /169 W
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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4225

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, UK

SUBJECT: TGWU SEEKS BOYCOTT ACTION AGAINST
CALIFORNIA GRAPES

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE TRANSPORT
AND GENERAL WORKERS' UNION HAS DECIDED TO OFFER
"PRACTICAL SUPPORT" TO THE AFL-CIO UNITED NATIONAL
FARM WORKERS' UNION. ACCORDING TO AN OFFICIAL OF
THE TGWU, THIS "PRACTICAL SUPPORT" WILL TAKE THE FORM
OF A BOYCOTT OF CALIFORNIA GRAPES SIMILAR TO THE
1968-70 BOYCOTT. END SUMMARY.

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2. FRED SILBERMAN, AN OFFICIAL OF THE TGWU STAFF, TOLD US THAT HIS ORGANIZATION WAS PLANNING TO CALL ON THE TUC INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE WHICH MEETS NEXT OCTOBER 23, TO RECOMMEND A BROAD TUC BOYCOTT. A SIMILAR REQUEST IS GOING TO THE INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORT WORKERS' FEDERATION. (JACK JONES, GENSEC OF TGWU ALSO HEADS THE TUC INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE.) SILBERMAN SAID THAT THE TGWU WAS AWARE THAT THERE ARE LEGAL PROBLEMS INVOLVED IN CALLING A BOYCOTT UNDER THE INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS ACT AND OTHER LEGISLATION WHICH PRECLUDES SECONDARY BOYCOTTS. HOWEVER, THE UNION EXPECTS TO URGE "SPONTANEOUS ACTION" IN SUPPORT OF THE UFW WHICH WOULD HAVE THE SAME EFFECT.

3. IN ADDITION TO THE TUC AND THE ITF, THE TGWU, ACCORDING TO SILBERMAN, IS EXPECTED TO GET SUPPORT FOR A FORM OF BOYCOTT FROM THE UNION OF SHOP, DISTRIBUTIVE AND ALLIED WORKERS (USDW), WHICH IS THE LARGEST TRADE UNION ORGANIZATION IN THE RETAIL TRADE. ACCORDING TO A REPORT IN THE SUNDAY TIMES SEPTEMBER 23, THE WORKERS IN THE LONDON CENTRAL MARKET HAVE ALREADY AGREED TO BAR DEALING WITH GRAPE SHIPMENTS.

4. AN OFFICIAL OF THE TUC INTERNATIONAL DEPARTMENT TOLD US THAT THE TUC HAS NOT MADE ANY STATEMENT ON THIS ISSUE. HOWEVER, HE EXPECTS THE ISSUE TO BE DISCUSSED AT THE NEXT MEETING OF THE TUC INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE. HE ALSO SAID HE IS NOT AWARE OF ANY DECISION TO BOYCOTT BY OTHER TUC AFFILIATES THAN THE TGWU.

5. COMMENT: ACCORDING TO THE US FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL TRADE STATISTICAL REPORT FOR 1972 ISSUED MAY 1973, THE DOLLAR VALUE OF GRAPES EXPORTS FROM THE US TO THE UK WERE \$558,000 (2,064,000 POUNDS WEIGHT). HOWEVER, THE FIGURES FOR JANUARY TO JUNE 1973 BASED ON "READ-OUTS" OF US FOREIGN TRADE STATISTICS INDICATE THAT THERE WAS A SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE DURING THIS PERIOD (\$298,000 FOR 1,019,000 POUNDS WEIGHT), AS COMPARED TO THE SAME PERIOD FOR 1972 (\$68,000 FOR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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316,000 POUNDS WEIGHT).

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